

6-5497

17 January 1955

card

Roger Ferger, Esquire
Editor, The Cincinnati Enquirer
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Mr. Ferger:

The Cincinnati Enquirer in an editorial of 25 December 1954 entitled, "Clark and CIA," carried this statement:

The Associated Press tells us that persons in the CIA and others in the government resent General Clark's top-to-bottom approach, holding that the workings of this institution are so secret that even so eminent a soldier as General Clark should not penetrate the maze. We are at a loss to understand this attitude.

The article followed with some pleasant references to my past work. I wish to emphasize that I am not thin-skinned about criticism, and while I endeavor to do my work with a minimum of publicity -- not always with complete success -- I welcome constructive criticism and receive my share of it. I believe, however, that your editorial misinterpreted the Associated Press story and possibly inadvertently my own attitude. Certainly I wish to make it clear that there is no resentment felt here with regard to the work of General Clark. As the AP story indicated, I welcomed the survey at the beginning; I have cooperated with it 100% since it began; and if there are, as indicated by the AP, some "nervous" intelligence executives, I do not believe they are in this Agency. I can assure you this is no place for nervous people.

As you will undoubtedly appreciate, an intelligence organization must operate with a high degree of secrecy and security, and these requirements must and can, I believe, be reconciled to a procedure which will insure that there is proper control of funds contributed by the people and appropriated by the Congress.

Clark comm.

This letter is not written for publication but merely to insure that you and the other senior officials of The Enquirer should know my views of the subject matter of your interesting editorial.

Faithfully yours,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

AWD:meo

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The Cincinnati Enquirer

One of the World's Greatest Newspapers

ROGER H. FERGER
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

February 5, 1955

Mr. Allen W. Dulles,
Director,
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY,
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

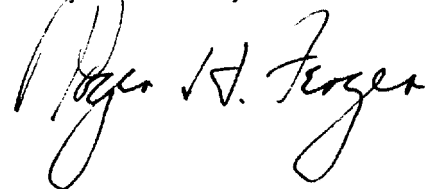
My apologies for this belated answer to your letter of 17 January regarding an editorial of 25 December 1954 issue of The Enquirer, entitled, "Clark and CIA". I have been out of the city almost constantly since your letter was received.

The editorial in question was written by one of our ablest men, Forrest Davis, who is a staunch friend and admirer of yours as well as a staunch friend and admirer of General Clark.

When I talked with him about the editorial, he mentioned his admiration and friendship for you and General Clark and stated he had no intention of injuring you in any way whatever and then he said this was his "ineffectual way to hold the balance even."

We at The Enquirer are well aware of the fact that an intelligence organization must operate with a high degree of secrecy and security and all of us here believe that C. I. A. is serving the United States well and frequently under what must be annoying and irksome circumstances. Please bear with us. When we can cooperate, I do not believe you will find us wanting.

Very sincerely,



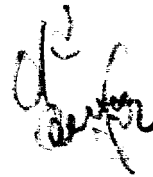
ER-L

14 March 1956

Mr. Dulles:

You asked whether a reply had ever come in to the attached letter. It did come in - and was in the Week End Reading file so I believe you had noted it, though perhaps briefly. May we now send it to file?

AT

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'AT' followed by a stylized flourish or name.